

23 RED DOG – YOU BET NEIGHBORHOOD FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

In recent years the Red Dog – You Bet area of Nevada County has begun to grow dramatically and has seen a great increase in the number of recreational enthusiasts frequenting the area whom often leave illegal bonfires or campfires unattended. The residents of the Red Dog – You Bet area feel that their roadsides are insufficiently cleared and with such a large number of homes in the area, the neighborhood is at a high risk of disaster in the event of a wildfire.

Roadways in the area are very narrow and windy. There is a heavy accumulation of Pine saplings, Manzanita, Scotch Broom and other native vegetation along the roadways in the area, many of which are unpaved and feature overhanging fuels. Due to heavy fuels in the area and a growing population of residents and recreational enthusiasts alike, the Red Dog – You Bet neighborhood association came to the Fire Safe Council in 2003 seeking assistance with grant funding for roadside clearing to provide safer ingress and egress in the event of a wildfire.

Actions involved in the Proposed Project: The Red Dog – You Bet Neighborhood Fuels Reduction Project was developed to create a 15' clearance on both sides of private roadways in the Red Dog – You Bet area, as well as provide mileage markers on main roadways. The Bureau of Land Management also considers this area as a high priority for fuels reduction efforts. There is incredibly strong support for these types of projects from the local community.

Event 1: Roadside Clearing. A Fire Safe Council of Nevada County representative will meet with landowners in the area as well as those responsible for fire protection to determine the highest priority areas to be treated. Areas to be cleared will be clearly marked and after a Request for Proposals has been put out, the FSCNC will select a clearing contractor to complete the fuels reduction work. The end result will be safer ingress for firefighters and egress for residents during a wildfire.

-As of July 1, 2005 fuels reduction work will commence on the first 15 miles of identified roadway. Currently the CEQA and Environmental work is being done for expansion of the project for an additional 5 miles beyond the original fifteen. This expansion is due to be completed in the '05/'06 winter season.

Event 2: Roadway marking. The FSCNC plans to work with landowners and firefighters in the area to determine the most critical areas in which to place mileage markers. Many of the roadways in the area are unpaved and poorly marked, thus making it difficult for those attempting to report a fire or other emergency, to accurately report their location to dispatchers. As well, many who recreate in the area are not familiar with the geography of the area, thus creating an even greater hardship in attempting to report an emergency, durable mileage markers will help to alleviate this danger.